

MRS. BOTKIN, FIGHTING FOR LIFE.

Unmoved, the Accused Denies Ever Having Seen the Box of Poisoned Candy.

SHE SWEARS TO AN ALIBI.

Was in Her Room, She Declares, on the Day She Is Said to Have Bought the Box.

TELLS DUNNING'S WANDERINGS.

Marriage Was Never Spoken Of, and Her Sole Desire Was to Make of Him a Better and Happier Man.

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—Mrs. Botkin makes a good witness, positive in denial and at the same time not given to extravagant statements. Her evidence, in fact, was nearly all denial, mingled with implied reproaches directed at Dunning and marked by occasional lapses into fine language, the apparent residuum of a course of novel reading.

According to her account her relations with Dunning had been those of a mother rather than anything else. She was not pressed very strongly on this point, nor was the cross-examination severe in any respect.

When she resumed her direct testimony this morning she said she had accompanied Dunning on his journey East last summer as far as Oakland. Asked what agreement they had made as to correspondence she said: "A most decided one. He was to tell me about the war and show me that he had proved himself to be what he was not then." The testimony continued:

Q. Who wrote the first letter? A. He did. Q. How many letters did he write you on the trip? A. Three or four. Q. And after he arrived in Cuba? A. Those in possession of Cuba. Q. There was no understanding with you to sever friendship? A. Certainly not. Q. You were always to be friends? A. Certainly.

Q. How about marriage? A. Alas, it was impossible. I had my ties that I could not break. He also. I always told him that although his wife was a religious woman, and he was a free thinker, he had better follow her advice and throw himself upon her love and counsel.

Q. There was no talk of his abandoning her for you? A. Certainly not.

The witness insisted that she had her husband's full permission to go about with Dunning constantly in the way she did in 1890 and 1897. There was no secrecy about it. Dunning's condition previous to going to the war was pitiable. He was in actual want.

"I do not care to refer to what I did for him," said Mrs. Botkin. "When he went to Salt Lake he consumed his salary in drink. He wrote me after five months' absence saying that he thought he could reform in San Francisco and live down the past. He wanted my advice. I sent him funds and told him to come back."

Her Denials.

Q. Did you on the 4th of August mail a box of candy to Mrs. John P. Dunning? A. I did not, nor at any other time in my life.

The witness gave her answer calmly, but with dramatic emphasis, slightly marked by her habitual singsong intonation.

Q. Now, did you ever see this box of candy before it was produced in court? A. Never in my life.

Q. Did you ever see June go into the Owl Drug Store and purchase arsenic from Frank Gray?

A. I did not. I never made a purchase of arsenic in my life, in San Francisco nor any other place. I do not know Mr. Gray.

Q. And you never bought that handkerchief? A. Never did.

Q. Now, when you heard that your husband was seeking a divorce from you did you consult with an attorney with a view of retaining the case?

Q. Who was that attorney? A. W. H. L. Barnes. Q. When Dunning went to New York was there any understanding that you were to win him?

A. There was not.

Q. You were not to be gone? A. For his sake, yes. I always hoped the very best for him.

Q. Mrs. Botkin, you say you were sick July 21. You were not out of your room except to take a walk?

Q. Did you dine home? A. Yes. I had my dinner served at home before I was taken away.

Q. And you breakfasted in bed? A. I did. I never leave home Sunday.

This particular Sunday was the day when, according to the testimony of other witnesses, Mrs. Botkin bought the box of candy.

"Now, in your friendship with Mr. Dunning, what advice did you give him? Did you suggest his wife and family?" asked Knight.

"Always to go back to him. To stop drinking and do the best for himself and them. I thought Mrs. Dunning was too good for him."

Q. And you never discussed marriage? A. Never.

It was an impossibility.

Dunning's Dual Life.

The cross-examination took the witness over very much the same course as the direct. She had dined at restaurants so frequently with Dunning that she could not remember how often. Sometimes these dinners were had in the private rooms of French restaurants, and sometimes at less expensive places. At times Mrs. Botkin paid the bill and at others Dunning. About Christmas time in 1896 Dunning, in his wife's absence, came to live in the same house with Mrs. Botkin. The witness was asked:

Q. How did he come to live there? A. Well, there was a small room, and inexpensive. He complained of his old room, and said he could not get a bath.

Q. How long did he stay there? A. Till he left for Salt Lake City.

Q. Was he much with you? A. All the time. Q. Did you eat much together? A. Always. In my rooms and at cheap restaurants downtown.

Q. What was the character of your social relations? A. We would attend races together, eat meals together, play whist together; I prepared him refreshments, and sometimes he would drink prepared of whiskey. I had my room and he had his.

In the summer of 1897 Dunning went to Salt Lake City and returned in September. The witness was asked:

Q. You had him come back here? A. Yes. I thought it best to send him the money.

Q. You had no objection to his returning? A. Certainly not.

Q. Why? A. Because he said he had been drinking heavily at Salt Lake and felt very depressed. He had a chance in San Francisco and wanted to return.

Q. Where were you living when he returned? A. At No. 1124 Hyde street, a block from the Victoria.

Q. Where did Dunning stay? A. He took a room downtown.

Q. Did you dine together? A. Yes. I was heading and Mr. Dunning would come there and dine with me.

Q. Did you dine together downtown? A. No. I was heading at the time.

Q. Then, notwithstanding the fact that he had been drinking, you took an interest in him? A. I did, because of our friendship.

At the close of the cross-examination the defence rested. Some testimony in rebuttal will be offered on Tuesday.

MRS. CODY LOOKS FOR GOOD SHEPHERD BAIL.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Mrs. Margaret E. Cody, now in jail awaiting a second trial on the charge of attempting to blackmail Helen M. and George J. Gould, is going to make an effort personally to procure bail in the sum of \$1,000, which is the amount set this morning by Justice Alden Chester in the Supreme Court.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd, who have succeeded her since she has been in jail and who have extended her an invitation to spend Christmas with them, it is understood, are the persons to whom she will appeal. She will be taken to their home in the custody of an officer, who will remain with her during her stay.

MIND WRECKED BY APIAN HURRICANE.

Samoan Horror Rattled the Brains of Our Sailor Men.

TALES OF A BLUEJACKET.

Shock and Sights of the Great Storm Rattled in the Memories of Those There.

Washington, Dec. 23.—"I suppose that all of us who felt the living, frenzied force of that awful on-shore hurricane will dream about it occasionally as long as we live," said an ex-blue jacket of the United States

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Davenport Buys Game Cocks.

Although Christmas does not come until tomorrow, according to schedule, yesterday was practically the final shopping day, and the mob of women in the shopping districts reminded one of nothing so much as the final scrimmage in a football game. The poor male person who invaded the precincts given over on this day of days to women with money to spend, emerged therefrom feeling as though he had been clobbered by a street roller.

The pavements were crowded with crawling things of tin, fashioned to represent animals and birds, and propelled by clockwork, things to throw the timid woman into hysterics, all in all, a day that comes but once a year, and which will send the policeman on duty in the district where his stores are, to the shameful expedient of reporting themselves at the point of death with the grip.

Probably the most comfortable male shopper who invaded the money burning district yesterday was Homer Davenport, the cartoonist, who expended a large commission from his bank account in purchasing tin game cocks. It was a great day, all in all, a day that comes but once a year, and which will send the policeman on duty in the district where his stores are, to the shameful expedient of reporting themselves at the point of death with the grip.

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